

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) reminded eligible taxpayers to claim the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) when filing their taxes this year.

“As we near the April 15th deadline to file tax returns, it is important to make sure local working families know exactly what tax benefits they are eligible for so they can keep more of their hard-earned money,” **Arcuri said**.

The EITC is available to workers with earned income of less than \$37,783. In New York, there are approximately 1,449,933 recipients who received \$2,772,630,816 in 2006 benefits. The average EITC tax benefit in New York is \$1,900. In the 24th district, roughly 45,135 returns were filed totaling \$78,208,562 in 2005.

It is estimated that 20 to 25 percent of EITC-eligible workers, or 5 to 7 million people, fail to claim the tax benefit each year. A recent Census study found that 4.6 million people - including 2.4 million children - were lifted out of poverty thanks to the EITC.

For more information, or to learn if you are eligible for the EITC, contact any one of the following:

- Rep. Arcuri's District Office: 1-800-235-2525 (toll free in NYS);
- IRS website: www.irs.gov/eitc ; or
- The Tax Payer Assistance Center: 10 Broad St., Utica, NY 13501 - (315) 793-1952 - Open from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday – Friday (closed daily from 1:00pm to 2:00pm)

Arcuri has a record of supporting tax relief for hard-working families. Congress recently passed, with Arcuri's support, legislation to protect 36,000 individuals in the 24th Congressional District from paying the Alternative Minimum Tax this year and an economic stimulus package that will provide tax rebates averaging \$863 for roughly 7.3 million New Yorkers.

“Rising energy prices coupled with increasing costs for food and basic necessities is placing Upstate New York families in an untenable situation,” **Arcuri said**. “I will continue to support efforts in Congress to alleviate the tax burden on working families.”

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